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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2018

37/18. Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the key international human rights treaties, in particular article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and articles 10 (g) and 13 (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the issue of sport for development and peace and the Olympic Games, in particular its resolutions 67/17 of 28 November 2012, 68/9 of 6 November, 69/6 of 31 October 2014 and 70/4 of 26 October 2015, the latter on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, 71/160 of 16 December 2016, in which the Assembly supported the independence and autonomy of sport and recognized the unifying and c conciliatory nature of major international sport events, and 72/6 of 13 November 2017, in which the Assembly recalled its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993 that, inter alia, recognized the efforts of the International Olympic Committee to restore the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria* ("Olympic Truce") calling for a truce during the Olympic Games in the interest of contributing to international understanding and peace,

Reaffirming previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the issue of sport and human rights, in particular resolutions 13/27 of 26 March 2010, 18/23 of 30 September 2011, 24/1 of 26 September 2013, 26/18 of 26 June 2014, 27/8 of 25 September 2014 and 31/23 of 24 March 2016,

Recalling that the General Assembly has supported the independence and autonomy of sport and the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement, and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement, and noting that they, as well as other relevant stakeholders, also have a role in protecting the interests and rights of athletes and the integrity of sport in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the International Paralympic Committee Code of Ethics and other relevant international standards and principles,

Acknowledging the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, including principle 6, which states that the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Charter shall be secured for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Recalling that the General Assembly has recognized the valuable contribution of sport to the promotion of education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, fairness, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels, and noting that, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, sports can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Acknowledging the revised International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, in November 2015, and the Kazan Action Plan, adopted at the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017,

Acknowledging also the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes and the role of Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education,[1]

Taking note with appreciation of the final report of the Advisory Committee on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them,[2] and its recommendations to States, national, regional and international sport organizations and other stakeholders,

Welcoming the significant impetus that the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games give to the volunteer movement around the world, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers to the success of the Games, and in this regard calling upon host countries to promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind,

Noting that the Olympic Charter, among its fundamental principles of Olympism, stipulates that every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language that contributes to educating people on the values of respect, dignity, diversity, equality, tolerance and fairness as a means to combat all forms of discrimination and to promote social inclusion for all,

Recognizing also that sport and major sporting events can be used to promote awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing further the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport and to enhance, to this end, their participation in sporting events at the national and international levels,

Welcoming the continued advancement of women in and through sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively greater participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for women's empowerment and the realization of gender equality,

Acknowledging the potential of sport and major sporting events to educate the youth of the world and to promote their inclusion through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity,

Acknowledging also the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the United Nations system in such fields as

[1] See General Assembly resolution 71/160.

[2] A/HRC/30/50.

human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Acknowledging further the importance of the Youth Olympic Games in inspiring youth, including university students, through integrated sports and cultural and educational experiences, and the potential for social inclusion, welcoming the hosting of the Youth Olympic Games by Buenos Aires in 2018 and Lausanne, Switzerland in 2020, and the hosting of the Universiade in 2019 by Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation in March 2019 and in Naples, Italy in July 2019,

Reaffirming the need to combat discrimination and intolerance where they occur, within and outside the sporting context,

Recognizing that sport, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and other international major sporting events, such as the International Federation of Association Football World Cup, can be used to promote human rights and to strengthen universal respect for them, thus contributing to their full realization,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce, also known as *ekecheiria*, could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that recreational programmes, sport and games have helped to reduce tensions in some regions where there is armed conflict,

Noting also that sports could be a strong force for equality and diversity, and may play a role in the promotion of compassion, tolerance and acceptance for refugees and migrants,

Noting further that the participation of teams of refugees in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2016, and in other games, such as the 2017 World Championship in Athletics in London, and the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, might inspire a new understanding of the rights of millions of people caught up in crises around the world, and welcoming in this context the participation in mega-sporting events of teams of refugees selected under the responsibility of the International Olympic Committee, in close cooperation and consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, relevant international sports federations, national Olympic committees and the host country,

Acknowledging the very important role of the media in the promotion and popularization of sport and in raising public awareness of the merits of practicing as a key element of a healthy lifestyle, thus contributing to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Acknowledging also that the media may play a positive role when reporting on how sport can translate into respect for human rights and promote social cohesion and acceptance of diversity and the values of sport, including integrity, teamwork, excellence, respect, tolerance, fair play and friendship,

Noting the successful conclusion of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, welcoming the hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the cities of Tokyo, Beijing, Paris and Los Angeles, United States of America in 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2028 respectively, and stressing the opportunity to promote human rights, especially through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Recognizing the potential of sport and major sporting events in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to fostering peace and sustainable development, and to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the promotion of non-discrimination, and taking into account the need to address and prevent improper practices of stakeholders engaged in the organization and preparation of sports events, which may lead to human rights violations and abuses and negatively affect the economic, social and environmental spheres,

Recalling the designation of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, and encouraging the celebration of this day,

Being aware of the need to actively involve sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in achieving the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and respect for their inherent dignity, recognizing efforts made by the hosting countries to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities, and stressing the need to continue to build on efforts made most recently at the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in PyeongChang and the 2014 International Federation of Association Football World Cup in Brazil,

Acknowledging the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

Recognizing the need to reflect more thoroughly on the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter, the International Paralympic Committee Code of Ethics and good sporting example in achieving the universal respect for realization of all human rights,

Welcoming the panel discussion held at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council on the theme "The use of sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all",

Recognizing the need to support the independence and autonomy of sport and to preserve integrity in sports in all aspects, through good governance of sport executive bodies and the effective and impartial implementation of anti-corruption, anti-doping and other relevant regulations, without prejudice to the human rights of athletes,

1. *Encourages* States to promote sport as a means to combat all forms of discrimination;

2. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote human rights, development, peace, dialogue and reconciliation during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular by observing the Olympic Truce;

3. *Encourages* States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities by all members of society, and to cultivate a sports culture in society;

4. *Invites* States and national, regional and international sports organizations to, where appropriate, implement new or strengthen existing programmes that provide more opportunities and facilitate barrier-free access to sport for all, in particular for children and youth, persons with disabilities, and women and girls, and substantially increase opportunities for women's participation and leadership in all areas of sport, and in this regard encourages States to leverage sport and physical education policies and programmes to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

5. *Encourages* States and national, regional and international sports organizations to enhance human rights awareness and education, including the values of sport, of athletes, coaches and other sports officials;

6. *Calls upon* States to take effective measures to address vandalism and violence during and around sporting events, and to encourage national, regional and international sports organizations to contribute to that end;

7. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee to maximize the potential of sport to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the

Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national, regional and international sport organizations on the use of sport for this purpose;

8. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work a thematic panel discussion with regard to promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, to be held once every four years at the session of the Human Rights Council preceding the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, and also decides that the discussions will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Also decides* that the first such panel discussion will be organized at its forty-fourth session, ahead of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo;

10. *Further decides* to remain seized of the matter.

54th meeting
23 March 2018

[Adopted without a vote.]